GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:613
ANSWERED ON:17.07.2002
ILLEGAL FLIGHTS
NAWAL KISHORE RAI;SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether `SAM aviation` had been operating its flights illegally in the Indian Air space for the last many years ;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard ;

(c) whether certain individuals had informed the Government in this regard in 1998 itself ;

(d) if so, the details thereof ; and

(e) the action taken by the Government on the basis of the said information ?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH)

(a)&(b) An agency viz. M/s. Sam Aviation used to obtain clearances from the concerned Indian authorities for operating the flights of the foreign company M/s. GST Aero of Kazakhstan as its Indian principal. It was on 28th March, 2002 that the Ministry of External Affairs received a note verbale from the Embassy of the Republic of Kazakhstan informing that some charter flights operator was trying to obtain an over-flight and landing permission using forged copies of their diplomatic notes verbale.

(c) There is nothing on record to show that any such information was received in 1998.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Revised guidelines have since been issued by the Ministry in the matter of issuance of clearances for over-flights and landing of unscheduled flights in order to prevent occurrence of such cases.